

19 Feb 1897

bridge below Bridal Veil Falls was slammed to the northwest against the mountain, a team of horses was killed, and trees were railed off "as if by a hedge trimmer."

Another report said two men were

hurled across the river.

Helen Littlefield of Orem recalls stories told by her late father Willis Beardall. A member of the railroad work crew, Beardall heard the warning gunshots and a

whistle from the train engine.

He was one of those who raced to safety. Enroute, he had recalled, he stopped and helped rescue a fellow worker who had been downed by the slide. Both men

made it to the safety of the locomotive.

As recounted by this writer in a Herald column, July 5, an earlier Provo Canyon snowslide claimed the life of William W. (Billy) Ferguson whose home and barnyard, down-canyon from Vivian Park, were wiped out by a powerful slide from the south during the early morning hours of Feb. 19, 1897.

Ferguson's body was found still in his bed, but the home was destroyed. One of the few mementoes from the disaster is an oil painting of Ferguson and his ranch, by artist Joseph Kerby. The painting was retrieved from

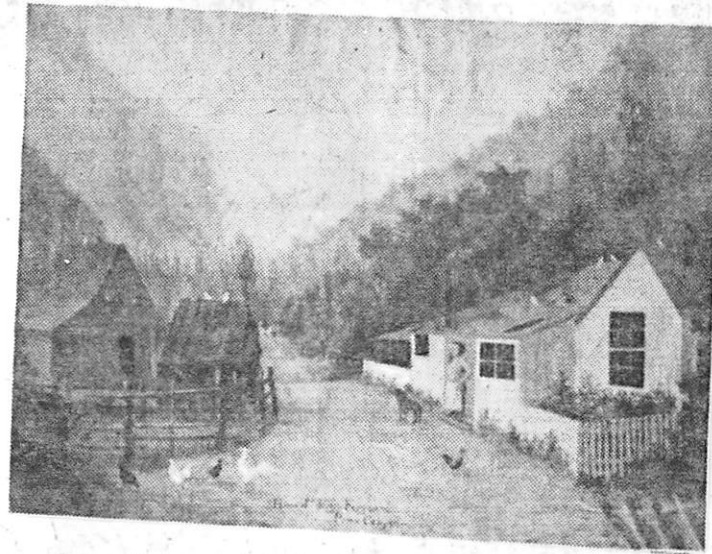
the wrecked home. It is a valued possession today of the victim's great-grandson, Glen S. Ferguson of Lehi.



Glen Ferguson

One more story: William Jonathan Clegg and Henry McMullin, brothers-in-law of Heber City, hauled a load of wood to Provo and sold it on Feb. 18, 1897. Returning to Heber, they stopped at Ferguson's for dinner and rest. They were tempted by Billy's invitation to stay overnight, but decided to press on and camp at Deer Creek. They learned the next day what their fate would have been had they accepted the invitation.

Clegg and his family later moved to the Provo area.



Oil painting of Billy Ferguson and his Provo Canyon ranch.

